(b) Augmentation of Staff to reduce and clear pendencies; and

(c) Simplification of the procedure to establish identify/nationality of the passport applicant.

VAMBAY in Karnataka

2939. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the Vaimiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) in Karnataka in the last three years; and

(b) whether his Ministry has any programme for Education of Urban Poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Since the inception of Vaimiki AmbedkarAwas Yojana (VAMBAY) in 2001 -02 Government of India (GOI) subsidy amounting to Rs. 90.06 crore has been released to the State of Karnataka to implement 7 schemes under VAMBAY. Year-wise details are as follows:—

Year	Got subsidy released (Rs. in crore)	Dweliing Units covered	Toilet Seats covered
2001-02	9.15	3333	575
2002-03	19.67	6979	2215
2003-04	39.44	14978	3090
2004-05	4.06	0	2030
2005-06	17.74	7992	0
TOTAL:	90.06	33282	7910

(b) No, Sir.

Rising cost of living in towns

2940. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cost of living in towns has been increasing more than 10 per cent yearly for the last more than four years;